

KCC 4757 (K-C 16,831)
PATENTAmendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A wetness indicator for alerting a wearer to urination comprising a liquid permeable enclosure having an interior volume and a liquid absorbent body therein, said liquid absorbent body absorbing liquid in the presence thereof and having an unrestrained volume upon absorption of a preselected amount of liquid, said unrestrained volume of the absorbent body being substantially greater than the interior volume of the enclosure such that the absorbent body applies an expansion and applying hydraulic pressure to the enclosure upon absorption of [[a]] said preselected amount of liquid, said enclosure limiting expansion of the absorbent body so that the wetness indicator stiffens as liquid is absorbed, said wetness indicator having a first stiffness when dry and a second stiffness greater than said first stiffness upon absorption of said preselected amount of liquid.

2. (Original) A wetness indicator as set forth in claim 1 wherein said wetness indicator is generally elongate.

3. (Original) A wetness indicator as set forth in claim 1 wherein said absorbent body comprises a sheet laid over itself

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at least once to form at least two folds.

4. (Original) A wetness indicator as set forth in claim 3 wherein said absorbent body is formed from thin sheet material fan folded longitudinally multiple times to form a multifold structure.

5. (Original) A wetness indicator as set forth in claim 2 wherein said wetness indicator is generally rounded upon absorption of said preselected amount of liquid.

6. (Original) A wetness indicator as set forth in claim 5 wherein said wetness indicator has a width between about one-fourth its length and about three-fourths its length.

7. (Original) A wetness indicator as set forth in claim 1 wherein said enclosure has at least two chambers.

8. (Original) A wetness indicator as set forth in claim 7 wherein said chambers are generally elongate and parallel.

9. (Original) A wetness indicator as set forth in claim 7 wherein said enclosure comprises a liquid permeable lining and a base layer attached to said lining to form said chambers between the base layer and the lining.

10. (Original) A wetness indicator as set forth in claim 9 wherein said base layer is bonded to said lining along a

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series of parallel, spaced-apart seams.

11. (Original) A wetness indicator as set forth in claim 1 in combination with a garment, said wetness indicator being positioned in a crotch region of the garment.

12. (Currently amended) A garment comprising an inner surface facing a wearer when wearing the garment, and a wetness indicator positioned relative to the inner surface for alerting the wearer when the inner surface becomes wet with liquid, said wetness indicator having a first stiffness when dry and a second stiffness greater than said first stiffness upon absorption of a preselected amount of liquid, said wetness indicator comprising a liquid permeable enclosure having an interior volume and a liquid absorbent body therein, the absorbent body having an unrestrained saturated volume greater than the interior volume of the liquid permeable enclosure.

13. (Original) A garment as set forth in claim 12 wherein said wetness indicator is positioned in the garment to press on the inner thighs of the wearer.

14. (Original) A garment as set forth in claim 12 wherein said garment comprises toilet training pants.

15. (Original) A garment as set forth in claim 12 wherein said wetness indicator is generally elongate.

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16. (Original) A garment as set forth in claim 12 wherein said second stiffness is at least about five times greater than said first stiffness.

17. (Original) A garment as set forth in claim 16 wherein said second stiffness is between about five and about twenty-five times greater than said first stiffness.

18. (Original) A garment as set forth in claim 17 wherein said second stiffness is between about ten and about fifteen times greater than said first stiffness.

19. (Canceled).

20. (Currently amended) A garment as set forth in claim [[19]] 12 wherein said enclosure has at least two generally elongate and parallel chambers.

21. (Canceled).

22. (Currently amended) A garment as set forth in claim [[19]] 12 wherein said second stiffness is at least about five times greater than said first stiffness.

23. (Original) A garment as set forth in claim 22 wherein said second stiffness is between about five and about twenty-five times greater than said first stiffness.

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24. (Original) A garment as set forth in claim 23 wherein said second stiffness is between about ten and about fifteen times greater than said first stiffness.

25. (Previously presented). An article for personal wear capable of alerting a wearer to the wearer's release of liquid body exudates, the article comprising a front region, a back region and a crotch region interconnecting the front and back regions and extending generally longitudinally therebetween, and a generally elongate wetness indicator positioned in said crotch region so as to come in contact with the liquid body exudates, said wetness indicator having a first stiffness when dry and a second stiffness greater than said first stiffness upon absorption of a preselected amount of the liquid body exudates, said wetness indicator being positioned transversely in the crotch region such that opposite ends of said wetness indicator provide a tactile sensation to the inner thighs of the wearer for alerting the wearer to the release of liquid body exudates.

26. (Previously presented) An article as set forth in claim 25 wherein the wetness indicator comprises a liquid permeable enclosure and an absorbent body within said liquid permeable enclosure, said absorbent body being capable of expansion upon the absorption of liquid body exudates thereby, said enclosure limiting the expansion of the absorbent body whereby the wetness indicator stiffens as liquid body exudates are absorbed by said absorbent body.

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27. (Previously presented) An article as set forth in claim 26 wherein said second stiffness is at least about five times greater than said first stiffness.

28. (Previously presented) An article as set forth in claim 26 wherein an unrestrained saturated volume of the liquid absorbent body is greater than the volume of the liquid permeable enclosure.

29. (Canceled).

30. (Previously presented) A wetness indicator as set forth in claim 1 wherein said second stiffness is at least about five times greater than said first stiffness.

31. (Previously presented) A garment as set forth in claim 13 wherein said wetness indicator is generally elongate and is transversely positioned in a crotch region of the garment such that opposite ends of the elongate wetness indicator provide a tactile sensation to the inner thighs of the wearer.